THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Exchange-wise waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.3.95 is as per Annexure [See Appendix ITY. Annexure-15).

(b) National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of Telephone Connections on Demand allover the country including Karnataka Circle by March, 1997.

(c) The target for providing about 1,91,000 lines as expansion of exchange capacity for various types of exchanges has been fixed during the current year.

Strike by Telecom Employees

415. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI VIRENDERA KATARIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom employees went on strike in June this year;

(b) if so, what were their main demands; and

(c) on what terms the issues were resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their main demand was stoppage of privatisation of Telecom.

(c) A copy of the agreement dated 23.6.1995 signed by the DOT with the Staff Federations is in the statement enclosed.

Statement

COPY OF AGREEMENT DATED 23.6.1995 signed by the DOT with THE STAFF FEDERATIONS.

Agreement signed between Chairman Telecom Commission and Secretary Department of Telecommunications, Government of India with Leader, Staff Side, JCM-Departmental Council, and Secretary Generals of National Federation of Telecom Employees, Federation of National Telecom Organisations and Bhartiya Telecom employees Federation on June 23, 1995.

1. The Federations contention about the role of foreign companies and other aspects about the entry of Private Sector in Basic Telecom Services as violation of NTP is sub judice.

2. As for the demand relating to fixation of tariff and access charges, it was agreed that since the Government has already announced the formation of TRAI, all the related issues will be referred to the TRAI by the the DOT after it has been established.

3. New switching capacity for each SSA of the DOT will be determined by the concerned Chief General Managers in charge of the Circle. However, locational planning of such capacity within the SSA will be decided by the local management in consultation with representatives of the recognised Unions/Associations.

4. It is agreed that the DOT will be subjected to the same standards of performance and quality of service in the field of competition.

5. It is agreed that the DOT will be free to enter into the operation of the value added services at any time based on its best commercial judgement.

6. It is agreed to appoint a Committee of senior officers to make proposals of how the DOT's status could be upgraded and how it could be made more efficient and customer friendly so as to prepare it for competition. This Committee will be expected to submit its report within three months.

The report of this committee will be placed before the reforms committee before the Government takes any final decision in the matter.

7. It is agreed that if the DOT is ordered by a Court or a Consumer Forum to pay refund, fine, compensation

or damages for not providing satisfactory services or related matters, responsibility will be fixed in each case and suitable action against the delinquent officer/ official will be taken.

8. On the complaint of the Federations about the slow implementation of the decisions of the Reforms Committee, it is agreed that similar committees will be set up at SSA levels so as to monitor the implementation of the decisions taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Reforms Committee.

9. Training programmes and schemes already agreed upon will be implemented with greater speed. In this connection, the following further measures will be taken:

(a) Training facilities for restructured cadres will be organised in relation to the number of employees eligible for being trained rather than number of posts available in higher category;

(b) An employee who has undergone training and has passed the post-training examination will be entitled to a one time lump sum incentive in case he does not get promoted to a higher position within a period of six months of the passing of the examination;

(c) Help of private training institutions of repute will be taken to supplement the capacity of the Department to train more employees;

(d) Such of the employees who are required to undergo basic training in the use of computers will be exempted from undergoing the prescribed departmental training if they have been actually deployed on duty which requires the use of computers for a minimum period of one year. Such an exemption will entitle an employee to appear for the post-training examination without undergoing the training. Successful completion of the presecribed examination will entitle such an employee for promotion or incentive in the manner applicable to other employees.

(c) For technical personnel who have been handling duties involving new technologies for one year or more, special courses of shorter duration shall be evolved. The post training examination however shall be common for the employees participating in the condensed or normal courses. New technology jobs for such condensed courses are to be identified in the first instance.

10. The representatives of such Federations and the Leader, Staff Side expressed their unhappiness over the delay in the implementation of a number of agreed decisions of the JCM/ Federations. They were also keen that some other matters which had been pending before the Standing Committee of the JCM for a long period should be expeditiously disposed of. It was agreed to issue necessary orders on all agreed items and to dispose of all the pending issue within 90 days, at the end of which pending issue will be placed before the Minister of Communications for a decision in one of the monthly meetings referred to in Para 14 of this agreement.

11. Some of the issues and questions discussed include orders for Group 'D' employees in Circle Offices and Civil Wing for OTBP/BCR/time scale for wireless monitoring staff; Norms/ Promotional prospects of Civil Wing employees; regularisation of mazdoors with three years of service; pay fixation under FR 22 (c) for the/TA etc., and restructured cadres. It was agreed to discuss these issues and various other issues raised by the Federations/Unions not seated in the JCM expeditiously and settle them.

12. About the strike wages MOS(C) had separately agreed to consider the submission of the Federations which will be submitted at an early date. Meanwhile it was greed to postpone deduction of wages for the period of strike pending decision of the Cabinet.

13. No disciplinary action/victimisation shall be taken against the striking

employees except in cases of suspected sabotage.

14. It was agreed that the monthly meeting will be granted by the Minister of Communications to the representatives of the three Federations for watching the implementation of the above decisions.

15. Considering the dislocation and inconvenience caused to the subscribers, the workers agreed to put in extra efforts to bring back the work to complete normal by 1300 hrs today, i.e. June 23, 1995.

Sd/- Sd/-

Chairman Leader, Staff Side, JCM

Telecommunication

Sd/-

Secretary General NFTE

Sd/-

Secretary General, FNTO

Secretary General, BTEF

Proposal for Police Complaints Authority by Delhi Government

416. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Delhi had forwarded a proposal for Central Government's approval for Police Complaints Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs have received a proposal from Lt. Governor, Delhi making suggestions for the improvement of work efficiency and public image of Delhi Police. One of these suggestions is for the setting-up of a Police Complaint Authority/Commission to deal with public complaints against police action / inaction abuse of powers etc.

(c) The proposal of Lt. Governor, Delhi is receiving due attention.

Setting up of Major Ports in the Country

417. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to set up major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to involve foreign participation in setting up major ports in the country;

(d) if so, how much allocations made by Government for setting up such major ports; and

(e) to what extent the container handling position at major ports would be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Putting off Trip by India-a Defence Delegation to the US

418. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian defence delegation put off a trip to the United States recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the top American official for arms control has cancelled a trip to India from July 21 onwards; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to being normalcy in relation with US?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit was postponed as the earlier dates suggested by the US side were not found convenient.